

Wayne Allard

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ALLARD CALLS ON VA TO OPEN CLINICS BEFORE CLOSING FORT LYON SAYS HE WILL INCLUDE PROVISIONS IN LEGISLATION TO TRANSFER FORT LYON TO STATE OF COLORADO

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) today asked the Veterans Administration (VA) to commit to opening at least three replacement healthcare facilities and to fully fund nursing home health care needs before they close Fort Lyon. The request came in a letter from Allard to Secretary of Veteran Affairs Togo West.

“I have said from day one that I support people over buildings,” Allard said. “As a result I want to make sure the VA honors their commitment to open the healthcare clinics and fully fund the nursing home health care needs they have promised to the veterans.”

Allard in his letter to West said he plans to introduce legislation in the near future to transfer Fort Lyon to the State of Colorado. In that bill he intends to include provisions to require the VA to carry out a requisite environmental evaluation and restoration activities under NEPA and CERCLA, language to guarantee access by the public to the historical chapel and cemetery on the grounds of Fort Lyon and a requirement that the transfer be conditional on the opening of at least three replacement healthcare facilities and full funding of nursing home health care for all current residents.

“I intend to offer legislation soon to expedite the transfer of (Fort Lyon),” wrote Allard. “I realize that the Fort Lyon complex is historical and cherished, but I feel its age and inherent infrastructure liabilities have become too great to allow it to adequately balance it against the proposed three clinics that will replace it. Therefore....my planned legislation will include a requirement that the transfer is conditional upon the opening of at least three replacement healthcare facilities and full funding of nursing home care for the veterans.”

Allard said that he intends to introduce his bill before June 30. He asked Secretary West to respond in writing to his request before he introduces his legislation.

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